

**Urogenital and STI Molecular Specimen Collection**

**Instructions apply to the following tests**

- Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Screen (CTGC)
- Vaginitis Screen (Bacterial vaginosis, vulvovaginal candidiasis and *Trichomonas vaginalis*) (VS)
- Trichomonas vaginalis screen (TV)

**Appropriate Collection Device for Source and Test**

	Vagina	Throat	Rectal	Eye	Cervix	Urethra	Urine
Aptima Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit	✓ CTGC, TV, VS	✓ CTGC only	✓ CTGC only	✓ CTGC only			
Aptima Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit				✓* CTGC only	✓ CTGC, TV	✓ CTGC only	
Sterile Container OR Aptima Urine Collection Kit							✓ CTGC, TV

\*Preferred swab for this specimen source

**Vaginal Swab**



Use **Aptima Multitest Swab Collection kit (orange label, pink shaft)**

- Insert the swab into the vagina about 2 inches (5 cm) past the introitus. Gently rotate the swab 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture/discharge fluid is absorbed by the swab.
- Carefully withdraw the swab without touching the skin.
- Place swab in transport tube, break shaft and discard top portion. Secure lid firmly.

**Rectal Swab**



Use **Aptima Multitest Swab Collection kit (orange label, pink shaft)**

- Insert the swab approximately one inch into the anal canal. If the swab is stained with feces, then use another swab to collect the sample.
- Rotate the swab 2-3 times around the anal canal to sample the crypts, allow several seconds for absorption of organisms onto swab
- Place swab in transport tube, break shaft and discard top portion. Secure lid firmly.

**Throat Swab**



Use **Aptima Multitest Swab Collection kit (orange label, pink shaft)**

- Depress the tongue with a tongue depressor.
- Sample the posterior pharynx (back of the throat), and bilateral tonsils (if present) and inflamed areas. Avoid swabbing tongue or oral mucosa.
- Place swab in transport tube, break shaft and discard top portion. Secure lid firmly.

**Endocervical Swab**



Use the **Aptima Unisex Swab Collection Kit (white label, blue shaft)**

- Using large white shaft "cleaning" swab, remove excess mucous from cervical os and surrounding mucosa. Discard this swab.
- Using smaller BLUE shaft swab, insert swab into endocervical canal and gently rotate clockwise for 10 to 30 seconds to ensure adequate sampling.
- Carefully withdraw the swab avoid contact with vaginal mucosa.
- Place swab in transport tube, break shaft and discard top portion. Secure lid firmly.

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**Urethral Swab**



**Use the Aptima Unisex Swab Collection Kit (white label, blue shaft)**

- Unless purulent urethral discharge is present, first catch urine is the optimal specimen in males for CTGC testing
- Patients should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to urethral swab specimen collection
- Insert blue-shafted collection swab 2 to 3 cm into the urethra and gently rotate the swab clockwise for 2 to 3 seconds to ensure adequate sampling
- Place swab in transport tube, break shaft and discard top portion. Secure lid firmly.

**Eye swab**



**Use the Aptima Unisex Swab Collection Kit**

- Thoroughly swab the inner surface of the lower and upper eyelids.
- Place swab in transport tube, break shaft and discard top portion. Secure lid firmly.
- If a Unisex Swab collection kit is unavailable, use an Aptima Multitest swab instead.

**First Catch Urine**



For outpatients, patients can go to a patient lab collection site to provide a specimen. If not at a lab collection site, have patient collect urine in **sterile, preservative free container**.

- Patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection.
- Patient should not wipe or clean the genital area prior to collection.
- Instruct the patient to collect **first portion (20-30 ml) of random voided urine** (first part of stream) into a sterile container.
- Patient should not overfill container as this may reduce the sensitivity of the test.
- **Deliver specimen to laboratory within 24 hours of collection**, unless transferred to Aptima urine specimen transport tube before transport.



- **If using the Aptima urine specimen transport tube:** Within 24 hours of collecting urine as above, transfer 2 ml of urine into the urine specimen transport tube using the disposable pipette provided. The correct volume of urine has been added when the fluid level is between the black fill lines on the urine transport tube.
- Place the labels on the transport tube so the black fill lines are still visible for volume confirmation when received by lab.

**Labelling the Specimen**

Label the collection container(s) with **ALL** of the following information:

1. Patient **full first and last name**
2. Patient Personal Health Number (or another unique/personal identifier)
3. The **date and time of specimen collection**
4. If multiple sources collected, **clearly write the source on each swab**.

**Packaging and Stability**

- Package patient samples in biohazard bag. **To prevent cross contamination always package/bag specimens from different patients separately and preferably different sources from same patient separately.**
- Store/transport specimens at 4°C-30°C.
- Submit to laboratory for testing as soon as possible.
- **Urines in sterile containers must be received in lab within 24 hours.**